

figure or upon the amount of variation assumed by this form. I fully concur with Mr. Hedley with regard to the importance of figures, which, however, should be correct, for an inaccurate figure is almost worse than none.

I find other differences, however, besides that of size, which certainly is not "the only written discrepancy in the descriptions of each." Differences of form, of colour, and sculpture are also indicated. The whorls of *R. flyensis* are said to be "above rather convex," whereas in *R. Armiti* they are flattish ("vix convexiusculi"). The lower surface of the latter is concentrically striated, a feature not noticed in the description of *R. flyensis*. The spire in Mr. Hedley's figure is much higher than in my species, and the strongly marked subperipheral band is also wanting in *R. Armiti*. I compared it with *R. hercules*, not because I was ignorant of Mr. Hedley's description and figure of *R. flyensis*, but because it seemed to me to have a closer relationship with that species, and because specimens were at hand for comparison.

In conclusion, I would remark that Mr. Hedley's observations would have appeared with more propriety if he had been writing upon the fauna of New Guinea. Some Americans are said to be very jealous of interference by Europeans with their fauna; and it seems almost as if the "green-eyed monster" were tripping in the Antipodes.

*Descriptions of some new Araneidæ of New South Wales.*

By W. J. RAINBOW.

Three new species of orb-weavers of the genus *Nephila* from New England and Sydney are described. The fact is recorded of a young bird (probably *Estrela temporalis*) having been caught in the web of *N. ventricosa* in the vicinity of Sydney; also that Mr. A. J. Thorpe, of the Australian Museum, had seen an emu-wren (*Stipiturus malachurus*) entangled in the web of one of the *Nephilæ* at Madden's, near Belle Plains (N.S.W.); also at Cape York several of the blue warblers, notably *Malurus Brownii* (Vig. & Horsf.) and *M. amabilis* (Gould). The writer points out that it is only young birds and those of weak wing-power that are arrested by such webs, and he expresses doubt as to the correctness of the assertion of some writers that birds so caught are devoured by the spiders; he points out that each web is placed in position by the unerring instincts of the spider, simply because the situation is such as will assure abundance of food in the shape of insects, and that it is merely an accident when a bird becomes entangled in the toil. The paper concludes with a description of the mode of coition in the *Nephilæ* and a list of the previously described Australian species of the genus.—*Abstract of Proceedings of the Linnean Society of New South Wales*, June 26, 1895, p. i.